

To the courts and Duluth community,

As a mother, wife, foster parent, teacher, trainer, mentor and role model in this Duluth community I have disappointed and hurt many people by my actions and for that I am deeply sorry. As a trusted adult in this community I responded inappropriately and therefore have hurt many people and I know I cannot take that back or undo any of the pain and damage I have caused. I will have to live with the guilt and shame of my actions and those I have hurt for the rest of my life. I will never forgive myself for what I have done and for those I have affected by my actions. I know that there is nothing I can do to take back the pain and distrust I have caused this community, but I can promise you this, it will never happen again.

I regret that I didn't handle my past until now. I started therapy in July and have been working very hard on uncovering and digging deep into my childhood trauma that I've never dealt with. It has been very hard, emotional and challenging in so many ways, but I know by doing the hard work now, learning and understanding more about my past as well as my current behavior I am going to become a better, stronger person for myself, my children, my husband and this community.

My children are my world and I want to become the mother they deserve. I made a terrible choice and have hurt many people and that I cannot undo, but how I have reacted since shows that I want and know I need the help I'm currently getting in individual therapy, group therapy as well as with my advocates. I want to find ways that I can still make a difference in people's lives, I want to give back to this community because I truly love it. I know I have hurt many, but I hope by taking responsibility since the beginning I have shown my true colors. I've been honest, owned up to my actions and behavior and I hope that my behavior since my offense shows the remorse, guilt, pain and changes I want for myself and my family. I want to show people that despite making a huge, life altering and devastating choice that one makes; you can learn and grow from it.

To my victim, I am sorry that I didn't handle the situation properly. I am the adult and you are the child. I should have spoken up and asked for help instead of handling the situation the way I did. I have disappointed and hurt you and your family in ways I cannot even imagine or ever intended and for that I am deeply sorry and will have to live with for the rest of my life. I hope you can use the skills you learned over the years and make the life and future you deserve, have talked about and dreamed about. Continue to work hard in and out of school, on and off the court and field to better yourself and your life. I am sorry again that my response to things was not in the way the adult you trusted should have responded.

As the role model I was in the community I have spent years of working with kids and their families when life has gone wrong and been challenging and that was truly an honor and privilege. But I know that I have let all of them down and disappointed them and many others by my actions and that is something I will never forgive myself for.

I am deeply sorry to my family, my victim, his family, and this community for the damage, pain, hurt, sadness, disappointment, and anger I have caused that cannot be undone, but please know that this will never happen again.